

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - American Embassy
Sylvie VACHERET
Tel: 01 43 12 29 28
E Mail: vacheretsr@state.gov

U.S. ECO ONLINE - ENERGY
A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON THE WEB

No 9 – February-March-April 2009

U.S. ENERGY POLICY

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Moving America toward a Clean Energy Future

The White House – February 17, 2009 – 2 pages

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Recovery_Act_Energy_2-17.pdf

The White House today released state-specific details on the local impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Clean Energy Finance Authority programs included in the Recovery Plan will revive the renewable industry and double the amount of renewable energy produced over the next three years.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

U.S House Committee on Energy and Commerce – Full Committee Hearing – April 22, 2009

[The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, Day 2](#)

[The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, Day 3](#)

[The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, Day 4](#)

Day 1 discusses Administration views, U.S. Climate Action Partnership views and additional views on the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, and then tackles the issue of Green jobs and economic benefits. Day 3 discusses Allocation Policies to Assist Consumers, Ensuring U.S. Competitiveness and International Participation, Low Carbon Electricity, Carbon Capture and Storage, renewable energies, and Grid Modernization. Day 4 presents Bipartisan Leaders' Views on the ACES Legislation and discusses Energy Efficiency, Transportation, Building Appliances, and Utilities.

James Duderstadt, Gary Was, Robert McGrath, Mark Muro, Michael Corradini, Linda Katehi, Rick Shangraw, and Andrea Sarzynski

Energy Discovery-Innovation Institutes: A Step toward America's Energy Sustainability

The Brookings Institution – Policy Brief – February 2009

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2009/0209_energy_innovation_muro.aspx?emc=lm&m=222135&l=58&v=252043

The need to renew America's economy, foster its energy security, and respond to global climate change compels the transformation of U.S. energy policy. Innovation and its commercialization must move to the center of national reform.

Liisa Ecola et al.

Integrating U.S. Climate, Energy, and Transportation Policies: Proceedings of Three Workshops

RAND Corporation - March 2009 – 54 pages

http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2009/RAND_CF256.pdf

The three workshops brought together representatives of government, industry, advocacy groups, and the research community who hold different perspectives on what the goals of climate change mitigation policy should be and which strategies should be implemented to achieve them. Addressing the interconnection of climate change mitigation policy with the key sectors of energy and transportation will be major challenges for the United States in the coming years. The report organizes the key themes of the workshops by topic, in particular, pointing out areas of agreement as well as disagreement.

Energy Research and Development

U.S Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources –Full Committee Hearing - March 5, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=aa73d7c2-b769-9950-6c6d-71c60fd14096

Witnesses

The Honorable Steven Chu - Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. George Crabtree - Senior Scientist, Associate Division Director, Argonne National Laboratory

Mr. Bob Fri, - Visiting Scholar, Resources for the Future

Dr. James Bartis - Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation

Ms. Deborah Wince-Smith - President, Council on Competitiveness

Dr. Mike Corradini - Director, Wisconsin Institute of Nuclear Systems, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The purpose of this hearing is to review future directions of energy research and development and to identify key scientific and technological hurdles that must be overcome in order to pursue these new directions.

Chad Stone and Robert Greenstein

Why Utilities Are Not Well-Suited to Deliver Relief to Low-and Moderate-Income Consumers in a Climate Bill

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - February 19, 2009 – 6 pages

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-19-09climate.pdf>

Comprehensive climate change legislation is expected to include measures to mitigate the effects of higher energy-related prices on low- and moderate-income family budgets. The most efficient way to protect low- and moderate-income consumers is through a “climate rebate,” which would directly compensate families for their purchasing power losses, using revenues from a cap-and-trade system or carbon tax, according to the report.

Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency

<http://www.dsireusa.org/>

DSIRE is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and federal incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. It has two databases: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

ENERGY BUDGET

Daniel J. Weiss

Energy Budget Is Sunlight After Eight Years of Darkness

Center for American Progress - February 26, 2009

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/energy_sunshine.html

President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2010 budget builds on the \$91 billion of clean energy investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to continue investing in clean energy programs to create jobs, increasing national security, and reducing global warming. The new budget would also increase supplies of domestic oil and gas while eliminating some tax loopholes for big oil companies.

The President's FY2010 Budget for the Department of Energy

U.S. Senate Budget Committee – Hearing - March 11, 2009

[The Honorable Steven Chu](#) -- Secretary, Department of Energy

The Secretary of Energy examines the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget and highlights a few of its provisions on energy.

Legislation to Improve the Availability of Financing for Deployment of Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Technologies

U.S Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Full Committee Hearing – April 28, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=ca4c9799-002d-8a44-5cd8-bb85605fea96

Matt Rogers - Senior Advisor for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Department of Energy

Mr. Dan Reicher - Director of Climate Change & Energy Initiatives, Google.Org

John Denniston - Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers

Jeanine Hull - Counsel, Dykema Gossett PLLC

Joe Hezir - Vice President, EOP Group

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding legislation to improve the availability of financing for deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and to enhance United States' competitiveness in this market through the creation of a Clean Energy Deployment Administration within the Department of Energy.

Gilbert Metcalf

Taxing Energy in the United States: Which Fuels Does the Tax Code Favor?

Manhattan Institute – Study - January 2009 – 24 pages

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/eper_04.pdf

“At a time of deep national concern about both the adequacy of the U.S. energy supply and how much cleaner it can become, the question of how the U.S. tax code influences investment in energy generation is a crucial one. This report offers a comprehensive overview of the energy-related provisions of the U.S. tax code and their estimated impact on tax revenues. More important, this report indicates where the U.S. tax regime as a whole is likely to direct energy investment.”

ENERGY MARKETS

Draft Legislation to Improve Energy Market Transparency and Regulation

U.S Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – March 25, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=1b61e0fd-a5b9-a137-625a-cbfaf9facb9a

Dr. Howard Gruenspecht - Acting Administrator, Energy Information Administration

Ms. Anna Cochrane - Acting Director, Office of Enforcement, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Mr. Robert McCullough - Managing Partner, McCullough Research

Mr. Gerry Ramm - Senior Executive, Inland Oil Company, Petroleum Markets Association of America

The purpose of the legislative hearing is to receive testimony on draft legislation to improve energy market transparency and regulation.

Annual Energy Outlook 2009

Energy Information Administration - March 2009

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/index.html?featureclicked=1&>

The Outlook presents projections and analysis of U.S. energy supply, demand, and prices through 2030. The projections are based on results from the Energy Information Administration's National Energy Modeling System. The Outlook includes the reference case, additional cases examining energy markets, and complete documentation.

ENERGIE INDUSTRIES

Raymond J. Keating

Energy Cost Index 2009: Ranking the States

Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council - April 7, 2009 – 4 pages

http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/EnEn%20_102%20-%20EnergyCostIndex%5B1%5D.pdf

The study ranks the 50 states and District of Columbia according to key energy costs affecting business. It looks at two major energy costs affecting small businesses, individuals and families: 1) the price of regular gasoline at the pump, and 2) the cost of electricity (average revenue per kilowatthour). Each are calculated as indices and combined into one index. At the top - or the lowest cost states - are: 1) Wyoming, 2) Idaho, 3) Utah, 4) Kentucky, and 5) West Virginia. The highest cost states, including the District of Columbia, include: 46) Massachusetts, 47) Rhode Island, 48) Alaska, 49t) Connecticut, 49t) New York, and 51) Hawaii.

David G. Tuerck, Michael Head, Paul Bachman, Alfonso Sanchez-Penalver

The Economic Analysis of the Western Climate Initiative's Regional Cap-and-Trade Program

Beacon Hill Institute/Washington Policy Center – February 2009 – 29 pages

<http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/Centers/environment/PolicyBrief/WesternClimateInitiative.pdf>

Cap-and-trade could cost Western states nearly 200,000 jobs, say researchers...

Tyler Evilsizer

Industries Storm States over Climate Change

National Institute on Money in State Politics - March 18, 2009 – 36 pages

http://www.followthemoney.org/press/Reports/INDUSTRIES_STORM_STATES_OVER_CLIMATE_CHANGE.pdf?PHPSESSID=2750c9f760cea6d5c88c50026cb55c2b

As the climate change debate heats up in the states, those with a keen interest in the issue have turned up the pressure to make sure their voices are heard in the lawmaking process. Between 2003 and 2007, energy-related companies contributed \$151 million to state-level politics; chambers of commerce, manufacturers and pro-business organizations gave an additional \$31.4 million. In sharp contrast, environmental organizations and alternative energy companies contributed only \$26 million.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

GreenHomeGuide

<http://www.greenhomeguide.com>

Everything is going "green" these days, and more and more builders and homeowners are actively seeking to incorporate energy efficiency elements into their residences. The U.S. Building Council has sponsored this site to provide expert know-how on how to create green information regarding countertops, bathrooms, landscaping, stone & tile coverings, and flooring. First-time visitors can get a sense of the site's mission by looking through some of the recent "Ask A Pro" questions. This section provides interested parties with the opportunity for concerned parties to ask experts questions such as "How much will it cost to install solar panels on my 2000 sq. ft. home in San Francisco?". In the "Know-How" area, visitors can browse over sections that include "Furniture" and "Kitchens" to learn how to choose low-toxicity finishes, energy-efficient appliances, and durable surfaces. Finally, visitors can also use the "Search for a Green Pro" feature to look for information on local green professionals.

25 Cities with the Most Energy Star Qualified Buildings in 2008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Web posted March 5, 2009

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2008_Top_25_cities_chart.pdf

The report presents a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings in 2008 that have earned EPA's Energy Star. The list is headed by Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, D.C., Dallas-Fort Worth, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis-St Paul, Atlanta and Seattle.

Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel

April 2009

<http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0409.pdf>

Increasing the efficient use of existing energy supplies is widely acknowledged as the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs. "Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel" examines the strong U.S. record of tapping efficiency as a resource, and the accelerated efforts by individuals, organizations, and governments to squeeze greater productivity from all energy sources.

Trevor Houser

Energy Efficiency in Buildings: A global Economic Perspective

Peterson Institute for International Economics – Policy Brief – April 2009 – 5 pages

<http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/pb/pb09-8.pdf>

“Improving energy efficiency in buildings is often heralded as the cheapest way to cut emissions, with a wealth of individual investment options available at negative cost. The study draws upon the World Business Council for Sustainable Development model to assess the cost of transforming the global building stock in line with the G-8's 50 percent emission- reduction target and evaluates policy options for catalyzing such transformation.”

Energy Efficiency Resource Standards

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – April 22, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=af48dbe2-b8af-2ffb-a935-acd9cd4a7d98

The Honorable Charles Schumer - United States Senator, New York

Ms. Patricia Hoffman - Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy

Paul A. Centolella - Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Mr. David Manning - Executive Vice President of External Affairs, National Grid
Mr. Thomas Skains - Chairman, American Gas Association
Mr. Steven Nadel - Executive Director, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Mr. Rich Wells - Vice President of Energy, The Dow Chemical Company

“The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on energy efficiency resource standards, including S. 548, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for retail electricity and natural gas distributors, and for other purposes.”

Oversight of the GSA and Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings

U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works – Hearing – April 22, 2009

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=abd14ee2-802a-23ad-4c0b-549705c0e56a

Paul F. Prouty Acting Administrator, General Services Administration
Doug Gatlin Vice President, Market Development, U.S. Green Building Council
Lane Burt Energy Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Defense Council
Lane Burt Energy Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Defense Council

Energy Efficiency: Complementary Policies for Climate Legislation

U.S. House of Representatives – Committee on Energy and Commerce– Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment – Hearing – February 24th

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1500:energy-efficiency-complementary-policies-for-climate-legislation&catid=130:subcommittee-on-energy-and-the-environment&Itemid=71

As Congress crafts comprehensive climate and energy legislation, it is critical to understand the vital role of energy efficiency in achieving climate change and energy policy objectives. This hearing explored energy efficiency policies, such as building and appliance standards and an energy efficiency resource standard, that could be incorporated into climate and energy legislation.

Marilyn A. Brown and Benjamin K. Sovacool

A Source of Energy Hiding in Plain Sight

YaleGlobal - 18 February 2009

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=11978>

Efficient use of energy would save money and create jobs.

Donna Heron

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Do Energy-Savings Outweigh Mercury Hazard?

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - January 29, 2009

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/6427a6b7538955c585257359003f0230/00c07ccb32cf4fab8525754d0073d8d1!OpenDocument>
<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/index.htm>

Many people are turning to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, to save energy. However, there is also a concern because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “It would take 100 CFLs to equal the amount of mercury contained in older thermometers, which is about 500 milligrams.”

ELECTRICITY

Green Power Superhighways: Building a Path To America's Clean Energy Future

American Wind Energy Association and Solar Energy Industries Association - February 2009 – 28 pages

<http://seia.org/galleries/pdf/GreenPowerSuperhighways.pdf>

The report details current inadequacies of the U.S. electric transmission infrastructure and offering policy solutions to address them. According to the report, inadequate transmission capacity is a significant barrier to renewable energy development in the U.S. The release of the paper comes at a critical time. President Obama and Congress have made strong commitments to renewable energy as a driver for jobs creation and economic growth, but the nation's renewable energy resources cannot reach their full potential without renewed investment in our transmission infrastructure.

Bracken Hendricks

Wired for Progress - Building a National Clean-Energy Smart Grid

Center for American Progress – January 23, 2009

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/wired_for_progress.html

Our electricity transmission and distribution grid has been largely unchanged for generations. We need an energy grid to meet today's challenges.

Smart Grid Initiatives and Technologies

U.S Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – March 3, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=aa1ce631-aae4-f0e3-0756-d667268c8551

The Honorable Suedeen Kelly, Commissioner , Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
Dr. Patrick Gallagher, National Institute of Standards and Technology
The Honorable Frederick Butler, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
Ms. Katherine Hamilton, GridWise Alliance
Mr. Edward Lu, Google Inc.
Mr. Evan Gaddis, National Electrical Manufacturers Association

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to examine the progress on smart grid initiatives authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and funded in the stimulus bill, and to learn of opportunities and impediments to timely installation of smart grid technologies.

Peter Swire

Smart Grid, Smart Broadband, Smart Infrastructure

Center for American Progress – Report – April 8, 2009 – 16 pages

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/pdf/smart_infrastructure.pdf

One section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides billions of federal dollars to fund a “smart grid” for electricity, while a different part of the act provides billions in funding to upgrade broadband networks. Both the smart-grid and broadband efforts involve substantial planning, spending on new wires, and the creation of major new digital. So here's a simple and powerful idea—construction of the electricity grid and the broadband network should go hand in hand. And here is an even more powerful idea: we should combine these efforts with other parts of the Recovery Act, such as health care information technology, education reform, weatherization initiatives, and future policy initiatives to create a nationwide smart infrastructure.

OIL AND GAS

Timo Behr

The 2008 Oil Price Shock: Competing Explanations and Policy Implications

Global Public Policy Institute – 2009 – 30 pages

http://www.gppi.net/fileadmin/gppi/GPPiPP1_Oil_Prices_2009.pdf

Throughout 2008, world oil markets experienced volatility on an unprecedented scale.

While crude oil prices shot up to the dizzying heights of almost \$150 per barrel by the middle of the year, they came plunging down to close to \$40 per barrel by December. The paper analyzes the debate on the causes behind oil price volatility by disentangling the competing arguments and reviewing the evidence that supports them.

Harry Vidas and Bob Hugman

Strengthening our Economy: The Untapped U.S. Oil and Gas Resources

American Petroleum Institute - Web posted - February 1, 2009 – 97 pages

http://api-ec.api.org/Newsroom/upload/Access_Study_Final_Report_12_8_08.pdf

The development of America's vast domestic oil and natural gas resources that had been kept off-limits by Congress for decades could generate more than \$1.7 trillion in government revenue, create thousands of new jobs and enhance the nation's energy security by significantly boosting domestic production, says the study. The study also estimates that the development of all U.S. oil and natural gas resources on federal lands could exceed \$4 trillion over the life of the resources.

OPEC Oil Export Revenues

Energy Information Administration - February 2009 – 3 pages

http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/pdf.pdf

The members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$402 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$530 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$971 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$288 billion, representing 30 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$2,688 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007.

Who are the Major Players Supplying the World Oil Market?

Energy Information Administration - January 28, 2009

http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/energy_in_brief/world_oil_market.cfm

Governments of oil-rich countries have a major influence on the world supply of oil through ownership of national oil companies and, for some governments, their membership in OPEC.

Life after the Oil Bust

Wharton University of Pennsylvania - March 11, 2009 – 17 pages

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/20090311middleeast-english.pdf>

Time was when oil was being sold at \$140 a barrel, and while consumers cringed at the high prices, the oil-rich nations of the Middle East prospered. The result was an economic boom that spanned industries ranging from financial services and real estate to tourism. Stock prices soared. Sovereign wealth funds snapped up choice assets around the globe. In late 2008, the oil bubble burst, the financial crisis began to roll across the

world and boom turned to bust. The report explores how businesses in the region are coping with today's brutal reality.

Offshore Drilling: Environmental And Commercial Perspectives, State Perspectives, and Industrial Perspectives

U.S. House of Representatives – Committee on Natural Resources – Full Committee Oversight Hearing – February 11, 24, 25, 2009

Oversight hearing entitled: "*Offshore Drilling: Environmental and Commercial Perspectives*" scheduled on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 Oversight hearing entitled: "*Offshore Drilling: State Perspectives*" scheduled on Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Oversight hearing entitled: "*Offshore Drilling: Industrial Perspectives*" scheduled on Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Impact of the 2008 Hurricanes on the Natural Gas Industry

Energy Information Administration - January 26, 2009 – 9 pages

http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/feature_articles/2009/nghurricanes08/nghurricanes08.pdf

The report provides an overview of the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season and its impacts on the natural gas industry, including production shut-ins in the Federal Gulf of Mexico, pipeline damage as a result of the storms, and shut-downs of natural gas processing plants in the Gulf coast region. Furthermore, the report discusses natural gas market response to the 2008 Hurricanes.

Seventh Report to Congress On Progress Made in Licensing and Constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - February 20, 2009 – 7 pages

<http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/angta-seventh.pdf>

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission today submitted to Congress its "Seventh Report to Congress on the Progress Made in Licensing and Constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline," as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It outlines the major developments that have occurred since the August 2008 report.

CLEAN COAL

FutureGen and the Department of Energy's Advanced Coal Program

U.S. House Committee on Science and Technologies – Hearing - March 11, 2009

http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markups_details.aspx?NewsID=2375

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on near-term and long-term strategies to accelerate research, development and demonstration of advanced technologies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing coal-fired power plants.

Clean Coal - DOE's Decision to Restructure FutureGen Should Be Based on a Comprehensive Analysis of Costs, Benefits, and Risks

U.S. Government Accountability Office – Report to Congressional Requesters - March 11, 2009 – 53 pages

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09248.pdf>

Coal-fired power plants generate about one-half of the nation's electricity and about one-third of its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, which contribute to climate change. In 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE)

initiated FutureGen, a commercial-scale, coal-fired power plant to incorporate integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC), an advanced generating technology, with carbon capture and storage (CCS). U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that DOE re-examine its restructuring decision, based on the comparative costs, benefits, and risks of the original and restructured programs.

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Renewable Energies: Complementary Policies for Climate Legislation

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment – Hearing – February 26, 2009

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1504&catid=130:subcommittee-on-energy-and-the-environment&Itemid=71

Witnesses:

Howard K. Gruenspecht, Acting Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy
Ron Binz, Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Dr. Ralph Izzo, President, Chairman and CEO, Public Service Enterprise Group
Edward Lowe, General Manager, Renewables Market Division, GE
Stan Wise, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission

Electricity generated by renewable resources, such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal, will play a crucial role in reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing energy security, and promoting domestic economic development and job growth. This hearing addressed the potential role of renewable electricity in meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets under climate legislation and the role of complementary policies, such as a federal renewable electricity standard, in expanding renewable electricity and spurring technological development.

U.S. Solar Industry Year in Review 2008

Solar Energy Industries Association - March 2009 – 12 pages

http://www.seia.org/galleries/pdf/2008_Year_in_Review-small.pdf

The review highlights a third year of record growth. It notes that 1,265 megawatts (MW) of solar power of all types were installed in 2008, bringing total U.S. solar power capacity up 17 percent to 8,775 MW. The 2008 figure included 342 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV), 139 MWTh, thermal equivalent, of solar water heating, 762 MWTh of pool heating and an estimated 21 MW of solar space heating and cooling.

Oversight - the Environmental Protection Agency's Renewable Fuel Standard

U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety – Hearing - April 1, 2009

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=3fdd18ff-802a-23ad-4378-d21b6beb4d5a

Charles T. Drevna President , National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
Kelly Tiller Director of External Operations , University of Tennessee Office of Bioenergy Programs
Michael McAdams President , Advanced Biofuels Association
Nathanael Greene Director of Renewable Energy Policy, Air & Energy Department, Natural Resources Defense Council
Blake Early Environmental Consultant , American Lung Association

Jane Earley and Alice McKeown

Smart Choice For Biofuels

Sierra Club and Worldwatch Institute - February 18, 2009

<http://www.worldwatch.org/smartchoicesforbiofuels>

The report highlights the need for policy reforms at this critical juncture in America's effort to increase the use of biofuels. It outlines the economic and environmental impacts of first-generation biofuels such as corn ethanol, proposes strategies to make the biofuels industry more sustainable, and offers specific policy recommendations.

TRANSPORTATION

Shruti Vaidyanathan and Therese Langer

Annual Ranking of Green Vehicles Shows Progress Despite Tough Times

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy - February 3, 2009

<http://www.aceee.org/press/0902gb.htm>

Despite the beating taken by the auto industry in 2008 and more tough times ahead, manufacturers are fine-tuning their engines and transmissions, improving materials, and adding emissions control technologies get a head start on meeting tightened federal fuel economy standards. Worries over the economy and future gas prices are driving interest in high fuel economy vehicles as well, says the author. This year's greenest title goes once again to Honda's natural gas-powered Civic GX. The Toyota Prius and Honda Civic Hybrid claim spots two and three, while the Smart Fortwo Convertible, the Toyota Yaris, and the Nissan Altima Hybrid complete the top six.

Pietro S. Nivola

The Long and Winding Road: Automotive Fuel Economy and American Politics

The Brookings Institution - Governance Study – February 25, 2009 – 22 pages

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0225_cafe_nivola/0225_cafe_nivola.pdf

Why does America's effort to moderate the use of oil in automotive transportation continue to fall so woefully short?

ENERGY SECURITY

Joseph E. Aldy, Camilla Bausch, Michael Mehling

Climate Change and Energy Security: Lessons Learned

American Institute For Contemporary German Studies/ The Johns Hopkins University - Policy Report – 2008 - 74 pages

<http://www.aicgs.org/documents/pubs/polrep35.pdf>

This report delivers some extremely valuable insights into the respective debates on both sides of the Atlantic... They examine the extensive climate and energy track records in both countries including the action at the federal and sub-federal levels, voluntary and mandatory measures, and the use of diverse instruments such as emissions trading, energy efficiency programs, support for research and development, and fuel diversification programs.

Thirsty Energy: Water And Energy In The 21st Century

Energy Vision Update 2009, World Economic Forum - February 2009 – 56 pages

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/ip/energy/energyvision2009.pdf>

The report explores the risks and opportunities inherent in the ancient relationship between energy and water, which has taken on a new urgency as competition for finite freshwater resources rises. According to the report, water is critical to energy production, yet the water/energy nexus is often overlooked. “The importance of bringing water into the energy equation now cannot be underestimated as we are heading for a more water-scarce future,” said Christoph Frei, Senior Director and Head of Energy Industry at the World Economic Forum.

Jeffrey Mankoff

Eurasian Energy Security

Council on Foreign Relations - February 2009 – 66 pages

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Eurasia_CSR43.pdf

A cutoff of supplies connected in part to a pricing dispute between Russia and Ukraine, the crucial transit country for much of Russia’s gas, left millions of Europeans without heat and forced factories to close. The crisis not only underscored the challenges of managing U.S. and European relations with Russia, a country whose geopolitical reach rises and falls to some extent with the price of oil and gas. The report explores the challenges faced by consumer and supplier alike in Europe and Eurasia.

Shiyong Park, Winny Chen, Rudy deLeon

Securing America’s Energy Independence through Energy Diversification

Center for American Progress – Report – April 29, 2009 – 12 pages

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/pdf/energy_security.pdf

Without energy diversification, the United States will grow even more dependent on volatile regimes to feed America’s insatiable appetite for oil, and it will finance this dependence by leveraging our nation’s precious treasury.

It’s Easy Being Green : a New Military Mission: Clean Energy

Center For American Progress – Article - March 4, 2009

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/03/green_military.html

In 2007, NPR reported that the U.S. military consumed and purchased 340,000 barrels of oil a day, making it the single-largest purchaser of oil in the world. Because of the Department of Defense’s size and vast energy expenditures, even small efforts to reduce energy use amount to big savings and improved security, and turning to alternative fuel sources can help significantly reduce the military’s energy footprint. The impetus to commit to alternative energy, reduce consumption, and invest in innovative energy sources is not just a matter of cost and sustainability for the military—dependence on imported oil is a security issue as well.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Common Challenge, Collaborative Responses: A Roadmap for U.S.-China Cooperation on Energy and Climate Change

Pew Center on Global Climate Change - February 5, 2009 – 58 pages

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/US-China-Roadmap-Feb09.pdf>

The report presents a vision and a concrete roadmap for U.S.-China collaboration focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change. Experts and key stakeholders from the worlds of science, business, civil society, policy, and politics in both China and the United States contributed to the report, or “Roadmap,” that explores the climate and energy challenges facing both nations and recommends a concrete program for sustained, high-level, bilateral engagement and on-the-ground action.

Energy - Country Analysis Brief: Iran

Energy Information Administration - February 2009 – 14 pages

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Iran/pdf.pdf>

Iran, one of OPEC's founding members, holds the world's third-largest proven oil reserves and the world's second-largest natural gas reserves.

Country Analysis Briefs: Greece

Energy Information Administration - February 2009 – 7 pages

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Greece/pdf.pdf>

Greece has limited domestic energy resources, but it could develop into an important regional transit hub.